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COUNTRY China

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Plan Independence of North China

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1. A group of Chinese businessmen of North China, including influential Tientsin merchants, have decided on a plan of action to combat the critical military and economic situation in North China. This plan hinges chiefly on the collaboration of Generals FU Tso-yi, YEN Hsi-shan, and HU Tsung-nan (胡宗南) in setting up an independent government in North China, and on military and technical assistance from Japanese in both China and Japan.
2. The project has progressed beyond the "idea" stage. Go-betweens are secretly visiting these generals in attempts to persuade them to this course of action, and while they have not reached an agreement, it is certain that they take the plan seriously.
3. While American aid is desirable, the group prefers to try the plan for a year before requesting it, as they believe that the United States Government may doubt their sincerity in view of past experiences with the Kuomintang Government. However, cooperation of trustworthy Japanese is expected from the beginning and FU and YEN hope to get large numbers of Japanese ex-officers and men from Japan to strengthen their forces. (See [redacted])

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